

MAR 08 2019

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE INCLUSION OF NATIVE HAWAIIAN CULTURAL INTERVENTION
TREATMENT PROGRAMS, WELLNESS PLANS, AND HOLISTIC LIVING
SYSTEMS OF CARE IN THE STATE OF HAWAII'S RESPONSE TO THE
RISE OF MISUSE AND ABUSE OF OPIOIDS OR ILLICIT SUBSTANCES
IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii and the United States as a whole are facing
2 a serious opioid crisis that is "claiming the lives of thousands
3 of people, plunging families into tragedy, and taking a
4 devastating toll on society", according to Governor David Ige in
5 the 2017 report *The Hawaii Opioid Initiative: A Statewide*
6 *Response for Opioid and Other Substance Misuse Issues*; and
7

8 WHEREAS, the warning signs of public health trends on the
9 continent, which are normally delayed in their arrival to the
10 islands, are beginning to appear in Hawaii; and
11

12 WHEREAS, fatalities from drug poisoning have outpaced auto
13 accidents in Hawaii; and
14

15 WHEREAS, substance misuse and substance use disorders cost
16 the United States more than \$442 billion annually in crime,
17 health care, and lost productivity; and
18

19 WHEREAS, studies show that risk factors, such as poverty,
20 personal trauma, and cultural trauma, tend to be associated with
21 increased rates of substance abuse; and
22

23 WHEREAS, according to the Office of Hawaiian Affairs,
24 perceptions of health and illness are shaped by cultural factors
25 such as methods of communication, expression of symptoms, coping
26 styles, and willingness to seek treatment; and
27

28 WHEREAS, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs further observes
29 that in western cultures, illness is conceived as a pathological
30 imbalance in the body, whereas Native Hawaiians view ma'i



1 (illness) as a disruption in lōkahi (the unity between akua
2 (gods), kānaka (humans), and 'aina) and Native Hawaiians
3 reference illness categories such as ma'i i kino (body sickness),
4 ma'i i waho (sickness from outside influences), or ma'i ma loko
5 (sickness from within caused by quarrels in the family); and
6

7 WHEREAS, incorporating cultural intervention, holistic
8 health, and wellness plans in treatment programs may increase
9 prevention of opioid and other drug addictions, misuse, and
10 abuse; and
11

12 WHEREAS, Native Hawaiians comprise nearly forty percent of
13 the statewide population admitted to addiction treatment
14 programs, representing more than double the Native Hawaiian
15 community's percentage of the total population; and
16

17 WHEREAS, section 226-20, Hawaii Revised Statutes, states
18 that planning for the State's socio-cultural advancement with
19 regard to health includes prioritizing programs, services,
20 interventions, and activities that address identified social
21 determinants of health to improve Native Hawaiian health and
22 well-being consistent with the United States Congress'
23 declaration of policy as codified in title 42 United States Code
24 section 11702, and to reduce health disparities of
25 disproportionately affected demographics, including native
26 Hawaiians, other Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos; and
27

28 WHEREAS, the Department of Health Alcohol and Drug Abuse
29 Division has received national and international recognition in
30 integrating holistic treatment systems, including those that
31 support Native Hawaiian cultural programs, kupuna (elders), and
32 practitioners; and
33

34 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii's Opioid Initiative does not
35 identify cultural treatment programs or traditional holistic
36 living systems as essential in preventing the spread of the
37 opioid crisis in the Hawaiian community and the community as a
38 whole; and
39

40 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii's Opioid Initiative neither
41 counts among its membership the primary state agencies charged
42 with bettering the conditions of the Native Hawaiian people, nor



1 does it include a diverse and robust membership of Native
2 Hawaiian programs, kupuna (elders), practitioners, families, or
3 patients with experience in providing or receiving cultural
4 intervention treatments; and
5

6 WHEREAS, the Hawaii State Opioid Action Plan does not
7 include cultural treatment programs as a primary focus but is
8 categorized as a living document that should continue to grow
9 and expand; and
10

11 WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii's Opioid Initiative concludes
12 that "now is the time to capitalize on all opportunities to
13 develop a more comprehensive system of care that will
14 effectively address the opioid crisis as well as the disease of
15 addiction in Hawaii"; now, therefore,
16

17 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
18 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2019, the House of
19 Representatives concurring, that this body urges the inclusion
20 of Native Hawaiian cultural intervention treatment programs,
21 wellness plans, and holistic living systems of care in the
22 State's response to the rise of misuse and abuse of opioid or
23 illicit substances in Hawaii; and
24

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that cultural and wellness
26 organizations and individuals tasked with improving the
27 well-being of Native Hawaiians be represented proportionately on
28 the State of Hawaii's Opioid Initiative or on an appropriate
29 focus group within the initiative, to be spearheaded by the
30 Department of Health Alcohol and Drug Abuse Division; and
31

32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that sufficient funds be
33 appropriated by the Legislature and released by the Governor to
34 comply with section 226-20, Hawaii Revised Statutes; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
37 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Director
38 of Health, Chair of the Hawaiian Home Commission, Chairperson of
39



S.C.R. NO. 103

1 the Board of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, mayors
2 of each county, and Executive Director of Papa Ola Lokahi.
3
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OFFERED BY:

Rosalee H. Aiea

[Signature]

